

Management of Pension and Provident Fund

2619. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pension and provident funds of Central Government employees will be privately managed from the next fiscal year and the Centre hopes to cap the fiscal deficit to 5 per cent as a result of this;

(b) whether it is also a fact that accruals to these funds would be allowed to build up a broad portfolio including high risk-return assets like equity and private debt instruments; and

(c) if so, what are Government's final plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Cadre restructuring proposals in Central Excise and Customs

2620. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Personnel and Training, had already cleared the cadre restructuring proposal for the Central Excise and Customs, in the month of October, 2000;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Finance Minister had given approval for the Cadre Restructuring plan for this service, in the month of September 2000;

(c) at what stage and in which department of Government, this proposal is pending at present; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The proposal for restructuring of cadres of Customs and Central Excise Department is presently under active consideration of the Governments.

MoU with Assam on downsizing administration

2621. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government;

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RAJYA SABHA

- (b) if so, what are the main conditions of MoU;
- (c) if not, whether there is any discussion going on the subject between the Centre and the State Government;
- (d) whether it is a fact that as per conditions of this MoU thousands of posts of the Government of Assam will be abolished in the name of downsizing the administration; and
- (e) in what manner the people of Assam would be benefited by signing this MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHEPATIL): (a) to (e) Government of Assam had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of India. The measures undertaken by the Government of Assam in this respect aimed at various fiscal corrections, which *inter alia*, included rationalisation of manpower in the Government. It is expected that the measures to be undertaken by the Government of Assam would enable the State to overcome the fiscal imbalance arising out of increasing revenue deficit. As a consequence, the State will be able to deploy more funds towards development, for the benefit of the people.

Subsidy in power generation sector

†2622. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government provide subsidy in the power generation sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the year-wise average subsidy given during the last three years; and
- (c) the average amount received annually by projects undertaken by Government and projects undertaken by State Governments from this subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHEPATIL): (a) to (c) The tariff rates charged to the agricultural and domestic consumers are significantly lower compared to the overall average tariff charged per unit of the electricity sold. While some State Government partly compensate the SEBs for the subsidized sales of electricity to agriculture and domestic sectors, others do not provide any compensation at all. The amounts of implicit gross subsidy involved, subventions received

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.